ROLL CALL
Monica Masco, Julie Mayfield, Robert Muth, Scott Anderson, Amy Weissfeld

STAFF
Nick Hogan, Eric Hansen, Ken Woodrich

GUESTS
Mary Repar, Casey Roeder

6:00 pm Meeting Called to Order by Masco

CHANGES TO AGENDA
Addition of Oil Train Resolution

MINUTES
Muth motioned to approve as written the October 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes with a 2nd by Anderson. Unanimously approved

CONSENT AGENDA
a) Liquor license application for added privilege – Walking Man Brewing requests added privilege for microbrewery, beer, and wine.

Muth motioned to approve the consent agenda item a as written with a 2nd by Anderson. Unanimously approved

PUBLIC COMMENT
Mary Repar likes the oil train resolution, but would like to address coal trains too. She said that coal is also an environmental hazard. Repar said that the community needs an internet utility. She said people are commuting out of our area to work, but if they could telecommute they could stay here. She suggested working with the PUD to provide reliable, cost effective internet.

6:05 PUBLIC HEARING 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET

Hogan presented the proposed budget for the City of Stevenson for fiscal year 2015. Hogan said the biggest changes are that unallocated revenue will show as unreserved cash carry over, and the unemployment fund will no longer be a separate fund but will show as a reserve in the general fund. He said there is one main Capital Improvement Fund and other Capital Improvement Funds for projects such as Quad Gates, etc. Next he discussed general benefits cost increases for L&I, healthcare, medical, dental and vision. Employer PERS is increasing 22% for the city and the employee’s share of PERS is going up. He said that salaries were adjusted for the cost of living increase approved by CC and for his proposed salary schedule (if approved by council). Everyone was given a budget book to review.

Hogan presented a proposed salary schedule revision, which he created to simplify the City’s salary schedule. A detailed discussion was had about the revision and Hogan answered multiple questions from council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Repar had questions about tourism and social services money. The detail budget pages were given to Repar and her questions were answered after she reviewed them. Repar asked about online bookings from The Lodge. Hogan said he is still looking into this.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED 7:10pm
Resolution 2014-278 and Ordinance 2014-1082

**Hogan** explained that WA State has tight laws on property taxes and gave an overview of how property taxes work. He said the city is allowed a 1% increase on property taxes, but expenses are normally 3-4%. He said most cities approve the 1%, and that they could ask for a levy lid but they are not. His recommendation was that council pass the resolution to approve the extra 1% to pay our bills. Secondly, that council passes the Ordinance in order to actually impose the tax. He said the figures come from the county assessor.

**Muth** made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-278 with a 2nd by **Anderson**. Unanimous Approval

Muth mad a motion to approve Ordinance 2014-1082 with a 2nd by **Anderson**. Unanimous Approval

The salary schedule and budget adoption were tabled until the next meeting. The second scheduled public hearing was also tabled. Another Public Hearing will be advertised and held for the public at the next CC meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Chamber of Commerce Updates**

**Casey Roeder**, Executive Director for the Skamania County Chamber of Commerce, provided a detailed update on recent events and activities. She said tourism is growing and occupancy is increasing at the North Bonneville lodge and the Skamania Lodge. She gave a detailed report of all the marketing ads that The Gorge and Stevenson are in, new companies in Stevenson, numbers at the outpost, Christmas in the Gorge, websites and Facebook page, Second Friday, billboard at exit 44B, and Lodge Treehouses. She answered any questions the council had.

**Request for City support of Skamania County Strategic Plan Update**

**Hogan** presented EDC Director Robert Waymire’s request for the City’s financial support of contracting with Western Washington University’s Center for Economic and Business Research (CEBR) to update the Skamania County strategic plan. **Weissfeld** asked if there will be any action items. Council would like **Waymire** to come speak at a meeting before they make a decision.

**BNSF Meeting in Washougal**

**Hogan** presented an invitation from Washougal Mayor Sean Guard for Stevenson City Council members to attend an informational meeting with BNSF and the Washougal City Council December 9, 2014, at 5:30 P.M. at Washougal High School commons.

**Oil Train Resolution**

**Mayfield** presented a draft resolution opposing the transportation of crude oil through the Gorge. She said they can add their voice to the other groups that are concerned. She went to an informational meeting at the library recently. Council decided to invite Peter Cornelison to a future meeting.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR AND STAFF REPORTS**

**Joint Emergency Facilities Update**

**Hogan** reported that he met recently with EMS Chief **Carol Shields**. **Shields** thinks EMS remains interested in the idea of a joint emergency facility, but their main focus for the immediate future is going to be purchasing land and developing a satellite EMS facility in Washougal to better serve their citizens in the west end of their service area. Establishing a facility in Washougal would also relieve some of the space issues with their current facility in Stevenson, making expansion in Stevenson less of an immediate priority.

In the short-term, Hogan and Shields believe the City and FD2 should look for suitable property for a new fire hall, giving primary consideration to the needs of the fire district. If we end up with property that is suitable for future EMS use also, Shields would like to have a discussion at that time about how to include plans for a potential EMS expansion in our initial design so that EMS would have the ability to build an extension onto our fire hall at some time in the future. The cost sharing arrangement that they view for this purpose is slightly different than the one proposed in the study, in that each entity would build and maintain its own separate portion of the structure with certain shared common spaces. **Hogan** and **Shields** believe this makes more financial sense than trying to allocate
costs from each other’s building needs. They also believe that having their own spaces with limited shared spaces would solve many of the managerial issues surrounding a joint facility while still allowing cost savings from the shared spaces.

**Columbia River Gorge Visitors Association membership**

*Hogan* said last month the city joined the CRGVA at a cost of $350 a year, mostly a website promotion right now. The city is supporting the chambers effort and there will be a link on the city website.

**Pedestrian crossing flags**

*Hogan* said pedestrian crossing flags were installed at the four inner crosswalks. *Weissfeld* mentioned that they may want to add flags to the remaining two (2) crosswalks.

**Signs**

*Hansen* said that in the first week of December the radar signs will be installed and that concrete footings for the way finding signs will be poured at the same time.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL**

October 2014 Payroll checks and November 2014 Accounts Payable checks have been audited and are presented for approval. October payroll checks 8891 thru 8910 total $73,031.48 which includes two ACH payments and one EFTPS payment. November Accounts Payable checks 8913 thru 8976 total $388,951.60 which includes one ACH payment. Checks 8911 & 8912 were voided. October 2014 investment activity was zero. Detailed claims vouchers will be available for review at the Council meeting.

*Muth* motioned to approve vouchers with a 2nd by *Anderson*. Unanimously approved

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS**

*Masco* attended a City of North Bonneville meeting. *Anderson* attended the OR Telecommunications Conference. They are looking to move away from copper to fiber and discussed a broadband strategic plan. *Anderson* would like to present more information at a later date to council. *Weissfeld* would like to talk about the website images on the city’s website. She said they need *Roeder* to pull a couple of images. *Hogan* said he will follow up on that. *Weissfeld* would like to have more discussion about Air B&B. *Hogan* will bring additional information back for council.

**8:54 MEETING ADJOURNED**

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Monica Masco, Mayor Pro Tem

Nick Hogan, City Administrator/Clerk

*Minutes by Melissa Anderson*